

10-15-1984

Interview with Jessie Marie (Taylor) Basham (FA 5)

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INFORMANT/FIELDWORKER DATA FORMI. INFORMANT.Jessie Marie Taylor Basham

NAME [Include fullest possible name - first, middle and/or maiden, last.

For example: John James Smith; Mary Franklin Smith (Mrs. John Smith)

1447 Kentucky Street

ADDRESS

Bowling Green, Kentucky

PERSONAL DATA:

Age: 77 Date of Birth: 9-2-1907 Place of Birth: Mining City, KY Sex: F

RACE/NATIONALITY/ETHNIC BACKGROUND

White

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: [Include education, occupation, places of residence, religion, etc.)

1-10 in Butler County grade school - 1-8 in Dunbar, KY 9-10 - Butler County High School. Detroit - sales clerk, Sears & ^{Housewife} Mining City, Dunbar, Detroit, Richardsville, & Bowling Green. Religion - Southern BaptistII. COLLECTOR.Jennifer Lynn (Hensley) Hulsey

NAME (Include fullest possible name as described above)

1445 Kentucky Street, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101

ADDRESS, LOCAL

P.O. Box 71, Bledsoe, Kentucky 40810

ADDRESS, PERMANENT

Land lady & next door neighbor

PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE INFORMANT, SUCH AS COUSIN, FRIEND, BOSS, ACQUAINTANCE, ETC.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Interviewer's tape no.: tape 1

WKU FL, FL & OHA Accession no.:

Interviewer: Jennifer Lynn Hulsey

Address: Bowling Green

Interviewee: Mrs. Jessie Basham

Address: Bowling Green

Place of interview: Bowling Green

Date: 10/15/84

Other people present:

Equipment used: Sharp Cassette Recorder

Reel-to-reel tape: Brand: Size reel: Tape Mil: Speed:

Cassette: Brand: Sony 60 Min . C-30/C-60/C-90/C-120 (circle size)

Amount of tape used: (Side 1) All (Side 2): All

Brief description of interview context and tape contents:

This transcription contains information from Mrs. Jessie Basham on the subject of Christmas during the time before she was married.

The first side is information on her first Christmas, Christmas presents, family background, growing up, and early Christmas traditions.

Counter

LH: This is Lynn Hulsey. It's October fifteenth, nineteen eighty-four and I'm interviewing Mrs. Jessie Basham in her home in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Okay. What's your full name?

JB: Jessie Marie Basham. J-e-s-s-i-e M-a-r-i-e B-a-s-h-a-m.

LH: Okay. Now what was your maiden name?

JB: Taylor. T-a-y-l-o-r.

LH: Okay Uhm. What were your Mom and Dad's names?

JB: My father's name was Jesse Thomas Taylor and my mother's name was Clara Pairlee Taylor.

LH: Okay. Could, will you spell both of those for me too.

JB: J-e-s-s-i-e T-h-o-m-a-s T-a-y-l-o-r was my father. My mother was C-l-a-r-a P-a-r, P-a-i-r-l-e-e T-a-y-l-o-r.

LH: I've never heard that name.

JB: I never did either.

LH: Well, there was a Taylor here in town that did the dress shop. Were you any kin to her? Carrie Taylor or something?

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	JB: I don't know her. Huh uh.
	LH: Uhm. What did your father do.
	JB: Uh. My father was a farmer and worked in timber.
	LH: Okay. And what was your Mon's occupation.
	JB: Uh. House keeping and raising kids. (laughs)
	LH: Okay. Uh, where were you born?
	JB: I was born at Mining City, Kentucky.
	LH: Where is that?
	JB: It's on the river in Butler County. Uh, on Green River in Butler County.
	LH: How long did you live there?
	JB: 'Til I was two years old.
	LH: Then, where did you go?
	JB: Went to Dunbar, Kentucky.
	LH: Okay. Where is Dunbar?
	JB: It's about five miles from Morgantown in Butler County.
	LH: How long did you live at Dunbar.
	JB: Oh. Uhm, Until I married.
	LH: Okay. Okay, when were you born?
	JB: When was I born?
	LH: Uh huh.
	JB: Nineteen and seven.
	LH: Okay. What month?
	JB: Sept-- September--
	LH: Okay. What day?
	JB: The second.
	LH: September second, Ninteen and seven?
	JB: Ninteen and seven. (laughing)
	LH:

FA5. F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	LH: You've seen quite a bit then haven't you?
	JB: Uh huh.
	LH: Uh. How many brothers and sisters did you have ?
	JB: I had one sister and four brothers.
	LH: Okay. Could you tell me their names? You had four brothers?
	JB: I have four brothers.
	LH: Oh goodness.
	JB: My sister's name was Bina Uchra.
	LH: Could you spell it?
	JB: B-i-n-a U-c-h-r-a.
	LH: That's pretty.
	JB: And my brother's name was Barnes Ochra. O-c-h-r-a.
	LH: Okay and B-a, Barnes?
	JB: B-a-r-n-e-s. My mother was a Barnes.
	LH: Oh, so she named him--Okay, there were two more boys? Three more boys.
	JB: Uh uhm. And then my next brother was Bazil Idrom. B-a-z-i-l I-d-r-o-m.
	LH: Those are neat names.
	JB: Uh huh. Uh huh. Uh huh.
	JB: And then I was next and then Roy--Roy Edward. R-o-y E-d-w-a-r-d. And the baby brother was Robert Clifford. R-o-b-e-r-t C-l-i-f-o-r-d.
	LH: Not two f's. That's neat. Well, tell me about the first Christmas that you remember.
	JB: Uh. I can remember way back. I was probably five or six years old. The first Christmas. And uh--
	LH: Tell me anything you can think of and then I'll--
	JB: My father would cut uh, logs in the fall and then he would take them down the river on a raft. And he would go to Evansville, Indiana on a boat. And uh, buy our Christmas things. And he would buy some very pretty things. And the first thing that I remember about him bringing me was a little lamp. A little china lamp. And it was real. I had--you could put oil in it. And it had

FA5, F2

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

a little wick. And it was just real pretty. And I still have it.

LH: So you didn't have electricity so that was. . . did you use it in your room?

JB: whispering I never did use it. I didn't use it. It was just not large enough to use. It was just pretty, but it could have been used like a candle.

LH: Uh huh.

JB: And we didn't have electricity.

LH: Uh huh. And that's about the first thing you remember?

JB: Yeah and we would always get fruit and candy. We would get a package of stick candy and we would get apples, oranges, bananas, coconuts and. . . I mentioned bananas didn't I Apples, oranges, bananas and whispering there's something else. Apples, oranges, bananas. . .
e

LH: And coconuts.

JB: And coconuts. I mentioned coconuts.

LH: Uh huh.

JB: We would always get those because they were special.

LH: Uh huh. Did he buy those in Evansville?

JB: No, we would get those. . . They were special delivered to out lit le grocery store.

LH: And you would use the money that he made selling timber?

JB: That was. . . That was our christmas money.

LH: Uh huh. So he bought each of you one special gift?

JB: One special gift. He bought each of us one special gift every christmas, real nice.

LH: And did he buy that in Evansville?

JB: He bought those things. . . He would buy those on his trip And bring them back.

LH: Well, what did he buy the boys? Do you remember what he would buy them?

JB: whispering I don't know. Probably wagons, little red wagons and things of that sort. I really don't remember.

LH: Trucks? Did they have. . .

FAS F2

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

5

JB: No, no trucks. Nothing like that. It would be maybe a ball and glove or a wagon, a little red wagon, or something like that for the boys. Clothes, he would buy us clothes. He would bring each of us some clothes.

LH: So you got clothes and a special gift and. . . Was your fruit in your stocking?

JB: Yes, uh huh. All of this was pretty. . . we'd hang up two stockings.

LH: A piece or for all of you?

JB: Each, yeah.

LH: Each?

JB: Each and our candies and nuts. We would also get nuts. Pecans mostly.

LH: Pecans.

JB: And we would get. . .

LH: You would get candy did you say?

JB: Yeah, we would get stick candy. And it would be in a bundle, you know, in a package. And all of that was put in our. . . And we would get some little gifts.

LH: For your stocking?

JB: Yeah, we girls. . .

LH: Where'did you hang your stocking?

JB: On a chair. We had a mantle, but we had to have fire in that so we would hang them on the mantle. We hung them on. . .

LH: Would you hang them on the dining room chairs or what?

JB: Uh huh, yeah on chairs. Hung them on the back of chairs. Each one of us had a chair and if anything wouldn't go in our stocking, it was to go on that chair.

LH: Uh, so once your stocking got full, they filled your chair up.

JB: Chair, uh huh, uh huh. There's that much.

LH: You said something once about him bringing you material?

JB: Yeah, he would bring real pretty material. Uh, one time he brought me uh, a white material, it looked something like veil with a grograin ribbon strip in it. It was just beautiful. And another time he brought some white and pink silk for me to make a dress.

FAS F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	LH: What kind of material did your sister get?
	JB: She...
	LH: Did you get the same kind?
	JB: No. No. Uh, I remember her one time having a tafta. It was blue tafta with a little, uh, lighter blue figure in it. A little, like a little leaf. It was really pretty.
	LH: Well, what kind of pattern did you, you both had to make your own dress then?
	JB: We had to make our dresses. Yes.
	LH: And what pattern did you use?
	JB: My mother had a basic pattern and she just used that for about everything.
	LH: So...
	JB: And later on though we did have, there was a seamstress that we could get to sew for us. Something real nice. This...
	LH: Well, how old were you when you made your first dresses?
	JB: Oh, I was probably seven or eight when I made these dresses up.
	LH: Well, he brought them before Christmas so you could...
	JB: Yes.
	LH: ...wear them on Christmas day.
	JB: Yeah. Well not especially. It was just...
	LH: Just a gift.
	JB: Just a... Yeah. And they just had to be made.
	LH: Tell me about. You were telling me about the china doll that he brought you.
	JB: Oh yeah.
	LH: Can you tell me that again?
	JB: Oh yeah. One Christmas he brought me a china doll. A china head and had china legs and feet. And the body was white kid. It had hair and was sleepy. I had, you know, it would go to sleep. And it was really pretty. It was about...

FA5, F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	LH: What is a kid body?
	JB: I was made out of white kid. Leather.
	LH: Oh, leather. I didn't know what...
	JB: White kid leather. Uh huh.
	LH: It would go to sleep?
	JB: And it would go to sleep and it had hair, long hair.
	LH: What kind of...
	JB: I was... The hair was dark and it was about, uh, fourteen inches high.
	LH: That sounds so pretty.
	JB: It was pretty. It was very pretty. I really did dress that doll up. (laughing)
	LH: You'd play with her a lot then?
	JB: Yeah. Uh huh.
	LH: Did your sister get a doll that time too?
	JB: No. My sister was ten years older than I was. She always got bigger things. You know, I, one time she got a ring. And I really can't think right now, the others things that he brought her... When he brought me the little lamp, he brought her a big lamp. that, it was a cole oil lamp. And it was a china base and it had, uh, a brass bottom and a globe. A china globe.
	LH: Uh huh, tell me about. . . You were telling me about your brother being a pest? With your doll?
	JB: My little... My brother just older than me, Roy Edward, he, he didn't like dolls at all. And I had my doll, oh, covered up with one of his shirts one time and I'd put it to sleep. And I had, uh, I had covered it up with his shirt and he came along and jerked the shirt off. He said he wasn't having his shirts on any dolls. And I was very distressed about it because I was afraid he had broken my doll.
	LH: But he didn't?
	JB: He didn't break it, no. laughing Boys then didn't play with dolls. at all. They just... they were really sissy if they played with dolls.
	LH: So, your brothers were... they were younger than you were??

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION	8
	JB: I had...I had two brothers younger and I had one...I had one brother just three years younger than me and one three years older.	
	LH: Well, when did you start getting excited about Christmas?	
	JB: Oh, we were very excited when we were very little. It always meant an awful lot for Santa Claus to come. And Santa Claus always came Christmas Eve night and we got our Christmas, Christmas morning.	
	LH: So, you'd get up early in the morning?	
	JB: We'd get up real early and see what Santa Claus had brought us.	
	LH: Well, did you decorate your house or anything?	
	JB: We didn't decorate but very little. We just didn't have decorating thing then. We didn't decorate. We didn't have a tree and I don't know of anyone else, you know, in our community that put up a tree.	
	LH: So, you don't ever remember, before you got married, having a Christmas tree?	
	JB: No.	
	LH: Well, did you go to church? Was the religion a real big part of Christmas?	
	JB: It was, and the church was very close. It was just across the, the road from our house. And that was our entertainment was going to church. We always went to church.	
	LH: So, when did you go? On Christmas Eve or Christmas day or	
	JB: We...It would be on Sunday. Whenever, no not Christmas day. We would always go, when I was, when I was real young on just the Sundays.	
	LH: Okay. And the sermon was about Christmas?	
	JB: About Christmas.	
	LH: But you all went. Did you wear your new dress?	
	JB: Oh yeah, I usually had to have a Christmas dress to wear.	
	LH: Well, where did...did you always celebrate Christmas at your house? Did you ever go to any relatives or anywhere?	
	JB: Very seldom did we go to relatives for Christmas. We would usually have Christmas dinner and sometimes some of the relatives would come, but they was a bunch of children and we very seldom	

FA5.F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION	9
	went any place on Christmas.	
	LH: Did anybody ever come over to your house for Christmas?	
	JB: We had ah...my mother had a sister and they would come sometimes cause they didn't have any little children. Their children was older than our younger ones and they would come to our house for Christmas.	
	LH: Well how big...did you have a big house?	
	JB: We had a four room house, five room house. Five room house.	
	LH: And that was at Dunbar?	
	JB: At Dunbar, Kentucky, uh huh.	
	LH: Okay and that's where you lived when...	
	JB: We had a front porch and a back porch.	
	LH: So, how...when...what decorations you did have did you all make them?	
	JB: We made popcorn. We'd pop popcorn and make popcorn strings and string them around.	
	LH: Is that all, did you ever have cranberries or anything?	
	JB: That's about all. No we didn't know what cranberries were.	
	LH: So, it was just you all. Just you, your family and kids and sometimes an aunt and uncle would come?	
	JB: Yeah, uh huh. My mother had one sister and she lived close to us. And in the winter time you just didn't do very much going at Christmas time cause the weather was so bad.	
	LH: Was it always snowy for the most part?	
	JB: It was most usually very cold. And you didn't have cars then.	
	LH: Did you all want it to snow on Christmas?	
	JB: Oh yeah, and we'd get out and play in the snow a lot.	
	LH: Snowball fight!	
	JB: Yeah, we'd...and in the winter time my mother would knit, We raised sheep and she carded her wool and spun it and made, knitted us stockings. We and...we...	
	LH: That's where your stockings came from.	
	JB: Yes, uh huh. We had...you could buy stockings. We would	

FA5, F2

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

order from Sears and Robuck, stockings and course we always wore stockings. And they were most usually black or white. And ah, but in the winter time she would knit our stockings.

LH: Well, if you've got sheep I guess that's...saved you money.

JB: Yeah, we raised the sheep. Well that was the, just the only way you know you really could afford to have them.

LH: So, your stockings that hung up, did she make them?

JB: Yes, yeah.

LH: Did she dye them?

JB: Well, they were black or white.

LH: Oh, they were the ones...

JB: They were black or white.

LH: They weren't red and green?

JB: No, no. I never remember anybody wearing any color but black and white.

LH: Uh huh, well, did they have your name on them?

JB: No, but they were different sizes. mumble from interviewer laughter They were all different sizes, you know.

LH: So, you used the stockings that you wore for the stockings for Christmas?

JB: Yeah, yes, uh huh.

LH: Well, I guess. And if they were hanging on you chair that meant they were your stockings.

JB: Oh yeah. laughter We was...sometimes we was really worried that they might get them mixed up, you know. I used to thing maybe my younger brother might get in there and get things mixed up and get some of my things. So, I'd get up the same time he did.

LH: laughter Keep and eye on him!

JB: And my older brother was real nice. I mean he wasn't... he didn't tease me like the younger one.

LH: Well what did you all eat?

JB: For Christmas we had ham and baked hen, dressing and all that. Wns we...we would have fruitcake.

FA5, F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	LH: Home made?
	JB: Home made fruitcake, uh huh.
	LH: Who made all the food?
	JB: Mother, my mother cooked.
	LH: You girls didn't help?
	JB: Ah, I never did help do much of that Christmas cooking. And my sister might have, I don't know. As I say, she was ten years older than I and I was so much younger than she was. She I imagine she ehlped do some of the cooking.
	LH: Well, did your mom make cookies and stuff like that?
	JB: Yeah, uh huh. Molasses cookies all the time. That's what we had...was molasses cookies. Sugar was kindly sort of expensive, you know, and with a big family...everybody back then had to be pretty saving, you know. We always had...we had molasses...we'd use molasses for sweetening.
	LH: Uh, huh. That sounds good! Ah, what kind of vegetables and stuff...did you have the same thing every year?
	JB: Just about, uh huh. We raised all of our vegetables and of course canned it.
	LH: Uh, huh because you couldn't freeze it.
	JB: negative reply And the same way with our fruit. We would mother would make preserves and can fruit. And course we didn't have freezers or anything so that was the only way we could perserve our vegetables and fruit was to can it.
	LH: Uh, huh, so, you had ham and chicken.
	JB: We had ham and baked hen.
	LH: Did you have dressing?
	JB: We had dressing, yeah. Yeah, we'd have dressing.
	LH: Did she make home made bread?
	JB: ~Oh yeah, they...we never bought bread, you know, then. It was all homemade bread.
	LH: See stuff like that I wouldn't know... pause
	JB: And we would have homemade bread. My father had a grist mill and he would grind our corn for us to make our homemade bread and sometimes he would grind wheat. And we would have

FAS, F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION	12
	<p>whole wheat bread, but that was very seldom because not very many people around there raised wheat. And ah, he'd grind corn for everybody around in the community.</p> <p>LH: Where did you get your milk? Did you have cows?</p> <p>JB: We had cows for our milk, uh huh. Yeah, we had cows. We raised cows and that was our milk. And we use...we'd make our own butter...churn it...have buttermilk. And it would sit around the fireplace til it clabored and then we'd churn it.</p> <p>LH: Did you have.a...What kind of churn did you have?</p> <p>JB: Oh, it was a big, stone jar. I guess it would hold, ah five gallons at least.</p> <p>LH: And you used a stick?</p> <p>JB: Yeah, we used a interruption And we had fireplaces in three rooms of our house. And we burned coal and that was our...we'd put our churn...the milk, set it to the side of the fireplace to clabbor and then we would churn it and make butter and have buttermilk.</p> <p>LH: Ah, where did you get your coal?</p> <p>JB: We had mines. They was mines in Butler County and still is.</p> <p>LH: So you bought it?</p> <p>JB: Uh huh. There would be someone who had a mines open and we bought...would get coal from the one that mined the coal in that community.</p> <p>LH: So all the vegetables you had, you had canned?</p> <p>JB: We canned our vegetables and we a so raised our, our dried beans. We would all go down to the farm and pick beans, put them in a big grass sack and bring them home and we'd shell them. And that was our beans for the winter.</p> <p>LH: How far was your farm from...</p> <p>JB: It was about three miles.</p> <p>LH: So, how did you get to the farm?</p> <p>JB: We would go to the farm in the wagon with the mules...a big wagon. And it had a seat momma and dad set on the seat and us kids would sit in the back. And we'd pick beans all day. laughter Take our lunch.</p> <p>LH: Even the little ones?</p> <p>JB: Yeah, we had to take the little ones. You didn't have baby sitters then. We took the little ones along, too.</p>	

FA 5, F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	<p>LH: Did they help?</p> <p>JB: No, not much. The...my youngest brother is ten years 1 younger than I am. And he was, you know, quite small. And then of course the brother next to me was three years younger. He would work. He, he had to help too.</p> <p>LH: Well, when did you all have Christmas dinner? Did you have it on...</p> <p>JB: On Christmas day. We had, yeah on Christmas day we had our dinner.</p> <p>LH: It was at lunch time?</p> <p>JB: At lunch, uh huh.</p> <p>LH: Did your dad say grace? Or did you say grace?</p> <p>JB: Not, not much no.</p> <p>LH: And you said your mom prepared the meal.</p> <p>JB: My mother..</p> <p>LH: Did anybody ever come over and help cook and eat dinner with you all?</p> <p>JB: I don't remember at Christmas time. We had a lot of company, but I don't remembsr at Christmas time. As I say, the weather most usually was so bad that the only way you had to go was in a buggy or wagon and anybody that had a family had to go in a wagon. And the weather was so cold and bad most usually didn't do too much visiting at Christmas time.</p> <p>LH: You were talking about your dad buying your special gift, did your mom ever make you all any presents? Was anything made?</p> <p>JB: Mother, ah, mother did a lot of sewing and knitting of course and I don't remember her really making a rag doll or anything like that.</p> <p>LH: She didn't make...</p> <p>JB: But she had a pretty good job doing the sewing and keeping the winter socks knit in the winter time.</p> <p>LH: Uh huh, so, and all you decorated with was your popcorn strings?</p> <p>JB: That's all I remember ever having to decorate with.</p> <p>LH: You didn't use holly or anything like that?</p>

FAS, FR

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

JB: I didn't know what holly was. I didn't know where any was.

LH: Well, how did you dress for Christmas day? Did you just...

JB: Most usually just ah...we didn't dress up. It was just a special day and we didn't do wnything else but play and eat and have fun, but ah, we didn't dress...dress up, you know, put on our Sunday clothes or anything unless we went to church.

LH: Well, did you just wear your pajamas to open gifts?

JB: No, no we dressed. We always got up and dressed of a morning.

LH: Did you?

JB: We didn't wear like housecoats or pajamas or things like they do now. It was always cold and ah, we'd get up and we'd put on our clothes.

LH: Well, how were your presents wrapped? Your special gift?

JB: No, they weren't wrapped.

LH: They weren't wrapped.

JB: They weren't wrapped.

LH: So, they were just sitting on the...

JB: They was just..in the boxes if they came in boxes or whatever. They weren't wrapped.

LH: Well, did you have any kind of music? For Christmas was there any kind of... did you sing...

JB: Oh, we had an organ. Yeah, we would sing. And my sister played the organ. And ah, we would sing.

LH: When did you...when would you sing?

JB: Usually in the afternoons...Christmas afternoon.

LH: Would you sing Christmas songs?

JB: Yeah, we'd sin Christmas songs, uh huh. Religious ones.

LH: And everybody...did everybody sing?

JB: Yeah, uh huh.

LH: So, you all had an organ?

JB: Yeah, we had an organ.

L

FA5, F2

LH: How old were you when that...

JB: Oh, I was very small and the organ was got for my sister really. And but when I got up large enough I took music lessons. And I played too. But ah, I guess the organ came...I don't remember where we got that. Probably from Evansville, Indiana. It was really pretty.

LH: Well, tell me about the most memorable Christmas you had before you got married. interruption

JB: One Christmas I bought him a little merry-go-round, you know, about that big around. And it was, let me try to think. If I can think what...but those times we got mostly clothes.

LH: So, you don't...

JB: You know, after we got older...when I got up about that age, swanny I don't know. And by that time my sister had one child I know. And I know they got little toys and things, but I don't remember much about it. I remember one time after we married we went home for Christmas and my brother and I, we would we lived in Detroit. When we married we went to Detroit, but we come home on Christmas. And ah, Joyce would hunt. They'd hunt rabbits, you know, and that's what he'd do. My brother and I, one just older than me, rode horseback and went to Mining City and I got some gifts. And I've got the set of plates in here right now that I bought for my mother. I wanna show them to you.

LH: Yeah, I want to see.

END SIDE 1

BEGIN SIDE 2

JB: My most memorable Christmas was the Christmas after my little brother was born. He's ten years younger than I am and ah, Christmas just...we all had Christmas with him and it just... We were all so excited about it. So he was our Christmas that year and I think that was the best Christmas I remember. And later on, from then on Christmas was for him really. And he got a little red wagon and I have a picture of him a pulling the wagon with his little dog in the wagon. interruption-are you supposed to ask a question? okay.

LH: Did anybody tell stories at Christmas time? Did any of your family ever...

JB: We got story...we got story books too then. Yeah, we got story books. Yeah, we had...my mother would tell us stories and my sister was older and she would tell us stories. "And we would have...about Christ and Christmas stories.

LH: They'd tell the story about Jesus being born?

FAS. F2

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

JB: About Jesus being born, uh huh. And that that's what represented Christmas.

LH: Who told them?

JB: My mother and my sister.

LH: Your dad never did tell...

JB: Not much, no. He was really an affectionate person, but he just never did tell us stories like that.

LH: Well, how did you mom and dad feel about Christmas? Were they excited?

JB: Yeah, yes, they always tried...they made as big a Christmas for us as they were able to financially to do. And with a big family, I guess it was sort of a burden to them sometimes, you know. But we always enjoyed whatever they could do for us.

LH: Well, it sounded like you all had a pretty good Christmas. Did most people have as good a Christmas as...

JB: People...probably not. Probably some of them didn't have near as good a Christmas as we had. You know, they probably didn't get anything, a lot of children didn't back then.

LH: Well, when you started getting older how did your gifts change? Did you start getting bigger gifts?

JB: Yeah, we started getting and wrapping gifts after I got older and then we had begun Christmased after my little brother was born too, for him. And we got each other gifts then.

LH: Oh, the kids bought for each other?

JB: Uh huh, yeah.

LH: What did you buy for each other? Do you remember anything?

JB: Just some simple something, yeah.

LH: Do you have...is there a Christmas that stands out in your mind as being real sad? Is there a sad Christmas?

JB: Not when I was small. interruption ~No, I don't remember any sad Christmases.

LH: There weren't any Christmases when you didn't get a lot of things?

JB: Oh there...when we were little we didn't get a lot of things like children did later on, but we were so happy to get what we did get. I remember getting a real pretty handkerchief one Christmas and it just thrilled me to death.

FAS, F2

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

LH: Well, how did you celebrate Christmas at school? Did you... was there any...

JB: We didn't do anything at school. It was usually in cold weather and we just didn't get out and do a lot of things at school.

LH: Well, when was your christmas over? Was it over Christmas day?

JB: Most of the time, yeah.

LH: Did you think about it for a few days?

JB: Oh yeah, we played with whatever we got and enjoyed that for a few days.

LH: What did you think Santa Claus looked like? Did you have a...

JB: I had an idea he was just like in pictures that you see of him. That's what I thought Santa Claus was.

LH: Did you, have you seen a lot of pictures?

JB: Yeah, uh huh. Yeah, And I have story books. Oh yeah, that's something else I got when I was real small. I've got some great big story books with pictures in them in my cedar chest.

LH: They had pictures in them?

JB: Uh pictures, uh, yeah they had pictures in them and then they'd have a little story about that you know.

LH: Huh. So, you thought Santa Claus looked like what I think Santa Claus looked like.

JB: Yeah. Yeah. Uh huh.

LH: Big, fat,...

JB: Uh huh.

LH: ...man with a red suit.

JB: Yeah, yeah.

LH: That's neat. I would think that the vision would have been different back then.

JB: No. No, we saw pictures of him. And that's how we thought he'd looked.

LH: When did you find out that there wasn't a Santa Claus?

FAS, FR

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

JB: Oh. I was probably ten years old at least. We didn't, my youngest brother and I decided that it was Momma and Daddy. (laughing)

LH: Did you? (laughing) How'd you figure it out?

JB: We watched them one night.

LH: Did you? Ahh.

JB: See, we'd go to bed and uh, and then Santa Claus would come after we'd go to bed. And um, we watched them one night. But, uh, I was about ten. Ten years old.

LH: Well how'd you feel? Did it hurt your feelings?

JB: I don't think so. I don't think I was vcery shocked. Because I was old enough to think that, I didn't see how Santa Claus caould do all those things he was supposed to do. Going in a sled and things like that, you know.

LH: And reindeer?

JB: Reindeers.

LH: (laughing) Humm. Let's see. I guess then we could start talking about Christmas then after you got married. What was your husband's name?

JB: My husband's name was Joyce, J-o-y-c-e M-c-C-a-d-e, McCade, Basham.

LH: Okay. And when did you all get married?

JB: We married in June the fourth, nineteen and twenty-four.

LH: Umm. When was he born?

JB: He was borned uh, September the twentieth, nineteen and three.

LH: Where was he, was he...

JB: He was borned at Richardsville, Kentucky.

LH: Umm. Well, how long did you all court before you all got married?

JB: Uh, about a year.

LH: About a year?

JB: Uh huh.

LH: How old were you when you got married.

FA5, F2

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

JB: I was, wasn't quite seventeen.

LH: Okay. Tell me about, do you remember your first Christmas you had with him?

JB: Uh. When we married we went to Detroit, Michigan. And we would come home, uh, at Christmas and go to my father and mother's for Christmas. And, uh, we would have a nice Christmas. Uh, he came in to hunt though. That was hunting time down in the country so he would come in to hunt. And we'd usually stay about two weeks until after the first of the year. And then we'd go back. And we had bigger Christmases than we did when I was small because there was more things you could buy.

LH: What did he do? What was his job?

JB: He worked in a factory. Automobile factory in Detroit. And uh, then uh, our first child was born four years later. And we came back and we farmed for a while. About three or four years. And then we went to Butler County and we uh, he uh, operated a coal mines. And we stayed down there seven years. And we had two, uh. We had three children. One of them was born in twenty-eight, and one of them was born in thirty-one, and uh, the youngest one was born in forty-one.

LH: Okay. What were their names?

JB: Uh, the oldest one was Betty Joyce, and uh, the oldest boy was named Billy Thomas and the youngest one is Rondle Lee.

LH: Okay um... How did you celebrate your first Christmas with your, your first one was born in twenty-eight?

JB: Ok y.

LH: Oh no. How wonder, how long has it been...

JB: It' been off for, ever since then. Let me ask you a question. I think. Can you play it back or anything?

LH: Uh huh. You want me to?

JB: Well, do you think it's necessary?

LH: No, we'll just go ahead.

JB: Okay.

LH: Tell me about your first Christmas when you had your first baby. (pause)

JB: We lived at Ricksville, Kentucky when our first baby was born and we had a big Christmas for her. We went down to my, my parents in Butler County Christmas Day, but we had,

FAS, F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION	20
	<p>also had Christmas with our relatives at Richardsville Christmas Eve.</p> <p>LH: So, you spent your baby's first, first baby's Christmas at your mom and dad's?</p> <p>JB: Yeah, Christmas day, uh huh.</p> <p>LH: Oh you went down there for Christmas Day?</p> <p>JB: Christmas day, uh huh.</p> <p>LH: Just to open gifts. Did you eat?</p> <p>JB: We ate dinner at her house, yeah.</p> <p>LH: What did you have? Do you remember?</p> <p>JB: Oh, ham and we had a lot of good things to eat then because we could get more things. And cranberry sauce and cakes and pies. All...we had a lot of good things to eat then.</p> <p>LH: Did your mom do all the cooking then too?</p> <p>JB: My sister helped her cook the Christmas dinner then.</p> <p>LH: Well did all...were all of your brothers and sisters there?</p> <p>JB: We were all at home, uh huh.</p> <p>LH: And you all just were there for Christmas day?</p> <p>JB: Christmas day, uh huh.</p> <p>LH: Did you all open presents on Christmas day, you never did open them on Christmas Eve?</p> <p>JB: We always opened our gifts on Christmas day.</p> <p>LH: How old was the baby then? Was she just little?</p> <p>JB: Well, she was borned in May 20th, May the 20th and she'd have been about eight months old.</p> <p>LH: So everybody was all excited.</p> <p>JB: Yeah, yeah, yeah.</p> <p>LH: Now his family lived right around there?</p> <p>JB: His family lived at Richardsville, yeah. He at...he also had...there were six in his family. And he had four sisters and one brother. And at Christmas time we would all, there was four of the family, the Basham family that we would go to each other's house.</p>	

FA5.F2

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

LH: So, and you spent all...

JB: Yeah, we spent four days of Christmas usually on the weekend, you know, if Christmas fell close to the weekend, why we'd just carry it over. We'd usually have Christmas at each one of the four houses.

LH: So, you opened gifts at each house?

JB: Yea, uh huh.

LH: Did you eat at each house?

JB: We ate. That was our...really the main thing more than presents, was eating.

LH: Just so you could visit.

JB: Visit, uh huh.

LH: Well, did you ever spend Christmas with his mom and dad?

JB: His mother...I never did know his mother. His mother died when he was sixteen and his father died when...well let's see, he died in 1960. Oh no, he didn't, he died in thirty-one 1933. So ah, we did spend the first Christmas with him.

LH: Uh huh, so what did you buy for your little girl that first Christmas? Do you remember?

JB: Probably just about anything we could afford. laughs

LH: Now he had been working in a factory and did you all have enough money to buy Christmas presents with?

JB: Yeah, we'd saved up our money for four years. And we had a big, we had a good Christmas.

LH: Well, what about Christmas before you had her? Was it always...

JB: We would always go to either his home or my home one, for Christmas. Most of the time down at my parents.

LH: Well, how did it change at home, how did Christmas change at home when...after you got married?

JB: Uh, at my father's and mother's? We had bigger Christmases. We had more things. And we had bigger Christmases and different things than uh...then's quite a bit of difference, you know.

LH: Well, did you start decor...When did you start decorating for Christmas?

JB: Oh, usually just a few days before Christmas. And we were

FA5, F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION	22
	having Christmas trees then.	
	LH: Did you?	
	JB: Yeah, we had Christmas treen then	
	LH: Well, how was the Christmas tree decorated?	
	JB: Oh, just small ornaments.	
	LH: Where did the ornaments come from? Were they bought?	
	JB: We bought, uh huh.	
	LH: Well, who all decorated?	
	JB: Oh just the family. Even when the kids were still little they really enjoyed helping decorate.	
	LH: Uh huh, well, when, when did you decorate the Christmas tree?	
	JB: Uh, just a few days before Christmas and we'd leave it up until after New Year's.	
	LH: Oh did you?	
	JB: Uh huh.	
	LH: Well, who took it down then?	
	JB: Uh, the kids after they got old enough. laughs	
	LH: So mom was happy then?	
	JB: Yeah, uh huh. laughing	
	LH: Did you still make popcorn and stuff like that to put on it or...	
	JB: Yeah, yeah, we still string our popcorn, uh huh.	
	LH: Tell me about stringing popcorn. I never have...	
	JB: Well, you just pop it and run a string through it and it makes a real pretty rope.	
	LH: Well, who all...who made the rope:	
	JB: Uh, well, we would help when, before the kids got big enough. Then after that the children would make them.	
	LH: So, you and Joyce would help?	
	JB: And they did...oh yeah.	

FAS. F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION	23
	<p>JB: And he would get our tree for us.</p> <p>LH: Oh, Joyce got the tree.</p> <p>JB: Oh yeah, yeah, he'd get our tree for us. And he would help too, yeah.</p> <p>LH: And then, did your dad help?</p> <p>JB: No, my dad was getting on, up older. My mother and daddy always seemed so much older than, you know, we thought they were.</p> <p>LH: Uh huh.</p> <p>JB: And uh, and then it was mostly just left up to the kids...</p> <p>LH: Uh huh.</p> <p>JB: ...to do, you know, whatever was done about Christmas. Other than the cooking.</p> <p>LH: Did you still have a stocking at home after you got married?</p> <p>JB: I doubt that I did because I wasn't too proud of those, uh homemade uh, knit wool stockings. I doubt it. laughs</p> <p>LH: So, and you still had fruit and stuff...The kids still... did you help buy the fruit and candy?</p> <p>JB: Yeah, yes, uh huh.</p> <p>LH: Well, your oldest sister was married too. Did she and her husband come home for Christmas?</p> <p>JB: Uh, well, they lived close to my parents.</p> <p>LH: So they,</p> <p>JB: Yeah, they would always be there and then by that time my brother was married too. So, it was quite a family affair at my mom and daddy's.</p> <p>LH: By then I guess there was transportation; so it was...</p> <p>JB: Yeah, oh yeah, we had a car when we married.</p> <p>LH: Well how... that was a long trip from Detroit to...</p> <p>JB: Yeah, when we first went to Detroit, we didn't go in our car. We went on the train. And cause it was such a long trip driving, and we went on a train. And we did that for about three years. And then we bought a bigger car. We sold the one here and bought one up there. And from then on...see it'd be</p> <p>a</p>	

FA5 F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION	24
	at least a twelve-fifteen hour trip from Detroit to here.	
	LH: And did you buy the presents in Detroit? And bring them with you?	
	JB: Uh huh.	
	LH: Was Christmas real exciting?	
	JB: Oh yeah, yeah. We looked forward to Christmas. And always did after our children came too. That was just a big thing you know.	
	LH: It's a big celebration, isn't it?	
	JB: Uh huh, yes. And we always had a...looked forward to Christmas. pause	
	LH: Tell me what kind of thing, when you got married, that you bought for your mom and dad for Christmas?	
	JB: I bought mostly things they could use in their house and some clothes. And ah, like the bed linens. Mother had made her sheets from brown domestic and sewed them down through the middle. And she'd order that from Sears and Roebuck every January and February sale. And that...she would order enough to do her that year for sheets. And I would get her...bought her some bed linens or sheets like we have now.	
	LH: That's amazing! Tell about the dress you made for your mom.	
	JB: And I would also get them clothes. Like one year I bought my daddy long underwear. He needed them and I bought him long underwear. And I made my mother one year a real pretty dress. And ah, I would get them things they could use in their house, that they needed.	
	LH: Well were they really excited about Christmas then.	
	JB: Oh yeah.	
	LH: About getting gifts.	
	JB: They were about the... they had the grandchildren by that time. And they were real excited with the grandchildren to... And they always seemed to appreciate whatever their children got for them and I'm sure they did.	
	LH: Well what kind of things were they buying them? Did they still live now at Dunbar?	
	JB: Yes, they still lived at Dunbar. MY daddy died when my youngest child was three months old. That was...would've been in uh, forty-two. And my mother...my mother lived to be eighty-eight years old. And she died in sixty-three. She	

FA5.F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION	25
	still owned the home down there and uh, by that time we didn't go down to her house for Christmas very much. But we would go...we would all gather in for Thanksgiving. The family would.	
	LH: Well, did she come to one of your all's houses for Christmas?	
	JB: Yes, uh huh. After my father died she lived with us some. She still kept our home, but she stayed up here in the winter-time. And we...Thanksgiving we would all meet down to her house and she would leave for the winter.	
	LH: Oh, and go home with one of you.	
	JB: Uh huh, yes ma'am.	
	LH: Well, what kind of things did they buy for your kids? Your mom and...	
	JB: My parents? Oh they would usually get them...Daddy would make them something or another. He was very handy with making things and uh, he would make them something like a basket.. Uh, I don't know...they were what you would call them. I think they was out of hickory bark.. But he would make them ba skets. (whispering) But he was really handy, so he would make them things.	
	LH: By then he wasn't going up the river anymore.	
	JB: No, he wasn't doing anything then. Uh...	
	LH: Did he whittle?	
	JB: Oh yes, yeah, he whittled a lot and that's the way he fixed this bark to make these baskets out of.	
	LH: So he didn't have any machinery?	
	JB: No, he did it with his knife. He didn't have any machines to do it with.	
	LH: Would he got out and cut down his tree?	
	JB: Yeah, uh huh. Get his bark.	
	LH: Did you ever watch him make...	
	JB: I'd watch him make them, yeah. I uh, I watched him.	
	LH: Did anybody else learn how to make them? Did he teach anybody else?	
	JB: I never did learn how. I never did...I never did want to do things like that, I guess. But I learned...	

FAS.F2

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

LH: Did he whittle any little animals or anything?

JB: My mother, my mother done a lot of crocheting too.

LH: Did she?

JB: Yeah, she did a lot of crocheting, quilting and things like that. And I learned to do all of that from my mother. And she even as long as she lived she could crochet, and quilt... piece quilt. And she did.

LH: She did piece quilts?

JB: Yes.

LH: Did she have patterns that she...

JB: Yes, uh huh, she had a lot of different patterns and she did that as long as she lived.

LH: Well, how did she...did she just piece them or did she quilt them?

JB: Well, after she got older, she just pieced them.

LH: Oh, and somebody else quilted them.

JB: But she used to quilt, she used to quilt.

LH: Well, how did she...

JB: She had uh, had frames that she hung from the ceiling and you would stretch that quilt in those frames and uh, let them down to... level to where you could reach them setting in a chair and you'd quilt. And at night you would role that quilt up to ther ceiling.

LH: Well, did you girls...did she quilt when you were little?

JB: I never did like to quilt. I never did an awful lot of quilting. I didn't like to quilt. But I have quilted and uh, my sister would help her, but I never did like to quilt much. But I did like to crochet and sew. And I piece quilts. I like to piece quilts.

LH: So, did your mom make quilts for presents?

JB: Oh, for the kids yes, uh huh. For her children.

LH: Baby quilts and stuff.

JB: Yeah, uh huh.

LH: And did she crochet... Wat did she crochet?

JB: Oh, she crocheted for the babies. Little caps and sweaters.

FA5, F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION	27
	<p>She crocheted little caps and sweaters and booties.</p> <p>LH: Really? Well, where did she get her...she didn't still have sheep, did she?</p> <p>JB: No, no by then you could buy yarn then in the stores.</p> <p>LH: And she would quilt them booties and stuff?</p> <p>JB: She would crochet them, uh huh.</p> <p>LH: Crochet.</p> <p>JB: Now she could knit to because shw would knit our stockings.</p> <p>LH: Well, did she make stockings for you kids then?</p> <p>JB: NO.</p> <p>LH: No, did you buy...</p> <p>JB: No, we quit that after.. wearing our yarn stockings, oh I guess I was about ten when I quit wearing yarn stockings. They were real heavy.</p> <p>LH: Were they?</p> <p>JB: Yeah.</p> <p>LH: Well, did you still use them for Santa Claus to come adn fill them up? What did you do after that?</p> <p>JB: Probably, we had bought stockings too.</p> <p>LH: What were they like?</p> <p>JB: They were just cotton. They were cotton stockings.</p> <p>LH: See cause the stockings I had... I always had the red stocking with the white...</p> <p>JB: Yeah, yeah that regular, regular Santa...</p> <p>LH: Did you have those?</p> <p>JB: No, not then, not then. But the children did later. Christmas... you bougt them or you could make them out of felt and things. No, not a long time ago we didn't have them.</p> <p>LH: So you just had the cotton stockings.</p> <p>JB: But our kids didn't have the yarn stockings, you know. But they did hang up their stockings. They would hang them up at the mantle.</p>	

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION	28
	LH: Well, what all other kinds of things did your mon and dad make? Was that about all.	
	JB: Just about everything that they had. I mean uh, you know, you couldn't go... didn't have money to go out and buy things like you do. And my daddy would put bottoms in chairs with his cain. And uh, just all...	
	LH: Did he make chairs? Or just bottom them?	
	JB: No, he just put new bottoms in them. New cain bottoms.	
	LH: So, your mom made most of your alls clothes?	
	JB: Yeah, she done nearly all the sewing for herself and the girls.	
	LH: What kind of things did you buy for your brothers?	
	JB: Uh, socks mostly, ties, billfolds, something like that.	
	LH: Well, if you're tired and want to stop now, we can just go ahead and stop.	
	JB: You want to stop?	
	LH: Yeah.	

End Side 2

Interviewer's tape no.: 2

WKU FL, FL & OHA Accession no.:

Interviewer: Lynn Hulsey

Address: Bowling Green, KY

Interviewee: Mrs. Jessie Basham

Address: Bowling Green, KY

Date: October 16, 1984

Place of interview: Mrs. Basham's home.

Other people present: None

Equipment used: Cassette recorder

Reel-to-reel tape: Brand:

Size reel:

Tape Mil:

Speed:

Cassette: Brand: Scotch 60 min.

C-30/C-60/C-90/C-120 (circle size)

Amount of tape used: (Side 1): All

(Side 2): approximately $\frac{1}{2}$

Brief description of interview context and tape contents:

This tape contains information about Christmas after her marriage in 1928 and during the depression years.

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
006	<p>LH: This is Lynn Hulsey. It's October 16, 1984 and I'm interviewing Mrs. Jessie Basham in her home in Bowling Green, Kentucky. I wanted to ask you some questions from yesterday that I had forgot to ask, okay? pause Okay, you talked about your dad would sell timber. About what time of the year would that have been when he started thinking about selling timber?</p> <p>JB: That would be in the fall. Probably about October.</p> <p>LH: And that...he did that was for your stuff for all year round?</p> <p>JB: That was our years money, uh huh.</p> <p>LH: Tell me about the catalog again...your mom...</p>
025	<p>JB: My mother would order in January/February sale catalog from Sears and Robuck. She would sit down and she would order our things for the coming year. Hose, well we called them stockings then, and what we had to have. And she would order brown domestic to make her bed sheets out of and pillow cases.</p>

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

LH: Okay.

JB: And she'd get enough of that to do for...until the next year.

LH: Well, did she sit down then and figure out what you were gonna get for Christmas? Or no, that was just for your household needs.

JB: No, not...that would be the January/February sale catalogue. I guess a lot of the older people remember that they did come out in January and February.

LH: Okay, we were talking about the food too. How did your mom cook the food?

JB: She cooked the food on a coal stove. [laughter] coal, hot stove.

LH: That was...

JB: Yeah, it was fueled by coal.

LH: Food on those stoves was better than it is now, I think.

JB: Yeah, uh huh..

LH: How long...does it take any longer to cook on a coal stove?

JB: No, I don't think so. They had iron kettles, you could take the ah, cap off of the stove and put it right down next to the heat. And ah, like you were gonna cook dried beans or something like that that took a long time. And ah, no it didn't take...and the oven heated up real good. It was cast iron stoves and it stayed hot.

LH: Well, when did she cook the food for Christmas? Did she cook on Christmas day?

JB: Her ham she probably would cook before Christmas and her cakes, but everything else was prepared Christmas day.

LH: And what time did you eat on Christmas day?

JB: About noon. We would have our noon meal.

LH: And we were talking about Santa Claus and this may sound silly, but tell me what Santa Claus looked like. Cause we talked about it and we both know, but we didn't, you know. Would you describe what Santa Claus looked like to you then?

JB: Like I thought he looked?

LH: Uh huh.

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

3

JB: I thought he looked, like the pictures we saw with his long, white beard. With his cap and coat and everything. I thought that's what he looked like.

LH: He had...

JB: Big belly, uh huh, big fat belly.

LH: His red suit.

JB: In his red suit, yeah.

LH: Well, not let's talk about ah...when did you move from Detroit?

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JB: In nineteen and pause the last of nineteen...no it was in March, 1928. March, 1928.

LH: Okay.

JB: And our first baby was borned on May the 20th.

LH: Right after you moved then, huh?

JB: After we moved back to Richardsville.

LH: Now where is Richardsville?

JB: Richardsville is about ten miles from Bowling Green.

LH: Is it in Warren, County?

JB: It's in Warren County, uh huh.

LH: Okay, well tell how...around twenty-eight [1928] how was...do you remember your first Christmas when you moved back here?

JB: Oh, well we at that time we could get a lot of things and we did have, for our little girl we had a lot of little toys and things. Things was pretty good for us right then.

LH: Well, where did you go to get things?

JB: Bowling Green.

LH: Is that where you came to?

JB: Uh huh, uh huh. And we came to the doctor in Bowling Green.

LH: So, and you lived...how long did you live in Richardsville?

JB: We lived there in Richardsville, not at the same place. When we first came back we bought a small farm and ah, then before the second child was born we bought a bigger farm and we moved and that's where we lived then til we went to Butler County.

FA5, F2

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

115

LH: Well, how did...did you have people over for Christmas? Who did you spend Christmas with when you moved back to Richardsville?

JB: Well, we spent Christmas with my husband's family. The most of the time we would spend Christmas with each other.

LH: Did they come to your house?

JB: Sometimes, but we would just...he had...my husband had four sisters and one brother and I had four brothers and one sister. And ah, when we were living at Richardsville why we would go to each others house. They was four of the children that we would go to each other house often.

LH: Well who...and would you go there and...

JB: And eat.

LH: Is that why you went?

JB: Uh huh.

LH: So, you didn't go and spend the night on Christmas Eve?

JB: No, we didn't spent the night. We spent the night at home. All we did was...

LH: Well, did you open presents?

JB: We opened our presents then even at Christmas Eve and then Santa Claus came on Christmas night. And the children had Christmas Christmas morning. Now we were busy cooking.

LH: Yeah, well, who all would do the cooking?

JB: Ah, whose ever house that we ate at. Now I did the cooking at my house.

LH: What did you usually have?

JB: For Christmas dinner?

LH: Uh huh.

JB: Well, we would have ham and capon.

LH: What is...

JB: Do you know what capon is? [laughter]

LH: No tell me.

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JB: It's ah, it is a chicken...chiken fryer...when they were fryers you castrate them and make a capon. And they're very tender. Just as tender as a frying ch cken. But they grow as big as a rooster. And that's what we raised and that's what we had for Christmas.

FA5.F2

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

LH: Well, did you have...what ^else did you have? You had ham.

JB: Ham, yeah, we'd have ham. We raised our hogs and we had our pork.

LH: So you would have to kill...

JB: And we cured our hams and our bacon.

LH: Well, what kind of vegetables and stuff did you have?

JB: We would have canned vegetables that we had put up in the fall. And canned vegetables...we would can them in a glass fruit jars and we would have just different kinds of vegetables because we canned just about everything.

LH: So, you had a real big meal then, huh?

JB: Yeah, we had a real big meal, uh huh. Cakes and Mince Pie, my husband always had to have a Mince Pie. And fruit cake.

158 LH: Well, did you make the fruit-cake?

JB: And I made the fruit-cake and the Mince Pie.

LH: Oh, that sounds good. How did...did you all sit at the table then and eat? Cause I know at my house a lot of times, we'll jsut get our plates and go.

JB: No, we would have..we would fix the able and weewould all eat at the table.

LH: What kind of...did you have special dishes?

JB: Usually, yeah, we usually had Christmas dishes that we'd put out, you know, our better china and everything on Christmas.

LH: How...what kind...how did you cook it?

JB: Well, I cooked...when we...oh, for a long time I cooked on a wood stove. We heated our stove with wood. We didn't have coal in Richardsville. And ah, I cooked it on...it was an iron stove, cast iron stove.

LH: So, you'd have..when did you start cooking?

JB: Usually the day before, I did my baking. And another thing we always had to have was interruption another thing we always had to have was custard, boiled custard.

173 LH: Did that...how did you make that? Did it come in a...

JB: No, we made it. You make it with eggs and milk and ah, your, whatever you want to flavor it with.

LH: Do you boil it?

FA5, F2

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

JB: You boil it, uh huh. And you put enough eggs in it...it will sort of thicken. It'll still be a dring, but it's thicker you know, it's not a pudding, it's just ah, it's custard.

LH: So it's not, it's sort of an egg nog?

JB: And we always had to have that. You'd make it by the gallon. You'd use a gallon of milk...

LH: Ooh yum.

JB: ...about eight eggs.

LH: So, you made that before?

JB: We made that the day before, uh huh.

LH: So you baked and cooked your meat and your custard...

JB: And the custard.

LH: ...the day before.

JB: Uh huh.

LH: So the, what time did you start then on Christmas day?

JB: Uh, most of the morning up until noon a cooking.

LH: Well, did...

JB: And the kids was haveing Christmas. They was playing with all their toys and everything and they were out of the way.

LH: Uh huh, so, did anybody ever help you? Did you do it by yourself?

JB: I did it by myself.

LH: Nobody...who set the table?

JB: And now, my husband was pretty good at things like that. He, uh, he probably would help me with all of that. And he always made, if we had tea, which I don't guess we had at Christmas time, but he always made the tea.

LH: Uh huh.

JB: He could make the best tea. Everybody thought, wanted Joyce to make the tea.

LH: [laughs]

JB: It's the truth.

LH: Well, then who would clean up after dinner was over?

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FA5.F2

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

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JB: Uh, whoever was there. If we had relatives in they helped clean up everything.

LH: Well, that's good. That saved you some time. Well, what did you have to dring? Besides just custard?

JB: Uh, we had uh, the custard and milk.

LH: Milk?

JB: Milk, coffee, not much coffee, but coffee.

LH: No coke like we have today? yeah.

JB: We didn't, no we didn't have cokes. No soft drinks or anything like that.

200

LH: So, how long then did you...you moved then after your second, before your second baby was born.

JB: Uh, it was about two years.

LH: Okay.

JB: About two years. He was borned at the other farm.

LH: Okay, well, how did you decorate when you first had your first baby? How did you decorate your house?

JB: For Christmas?

LH: Uh huh.

JB: Very little decorating.

LH: Really, did you have a tree?

JB: We had a tree, uh huh. We had a tree...

LH: Where did you get it? The tree?

JB: Out in the, in the woods. My husband would always go cut the tree.

LH: When did he get it?

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JB: Probably uh, two or three days before Christmas because they would dry out so and we'd leave it up until after the first of the year. After New Year's.

LH: Uh huh, well, how...do you remember any of the decorations that you would put on it then?

JB: I, the only thing I can thing of back that far was uh, we would have little folding bells. They were real small and they were red. And we would open those up and we would hang

FA5.F2

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

those on the tree. And really that's the only ornaments that I can think of that we used.

LH: Well, who all decorated?

JB: Just the family. We would decorate at this time we were talking about.

LH: So, you would decorate it when he went, as soon as he brought it back.

JB: Yeah, yeah.

LH: Were there any decorations around the house except for just the tree?

JB: Sometimes we would have a big bell. A bigger red bell that folded out, hanging over the dining room table. That was just about the decorations. Let's see, that would be in nineteen and uh, from twenty-eight to thirty-one is the time I am talking about. That is, thirty-one is the time when my second child was born.

LH: Okay, uh...

JB: And uh, when he was born was really the hardest times that we had. There just was not any money. You just, I mean you just couldn't sell anything. We were not making any money at all.

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LH: So, you all were farming then?

JB: We were farming.

LH: So, that was during the depression?

JB: The depression, yeah. Thirty-one was bad. I guess about the worst year for us we had.

LH: Well, how did it...there wasn't enough, much money to buy presents?

JB: No, no.

LH: But you, did you come to Bowling Green to buy...

JB: We would come to Bowling Green, yeah.

LH: Well, what kinds of things did you buy them?

JB: Uh, for the children, just whatever we could afford really. Not very much. Maybe a doll for the little girls and of course, the little boy wasn't old enough. He just had little toys.

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LH: Well, how did that change the decorations? Did they, did you use the same...

FAS, F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	JB: Came later on?
	LH: Yeah, during the depression, how was...
	JB: Well, we didn't do any decorating much then. We would have a tree but very little decoration that I remember then.
	LH: So, you didn't buy any decorations?
	JB: We didn't buy any, no.
	LH: Did you make any decorations then?
	JB: Uh, no. Not anything that I can think of. I'm sure that we did have somethl ng but I don't, I just can't think of anything. Maybe pine cones or something like that.
	LH: Uh huh, so, when did you quit making the popcorn strings?
254	JB: Oh, we still made our popcorn strings.
	LH: Oh really.
	JB: Yeah, we still made our popcorn strings.
	LH: Okay.
	JB: And at that time we had cranbèrries too. laughs
	LH: So you made cranberry strings?
	JB: Yeah, uh huh, we, could have cranberries too.
	LH: Well, that was pretty...
	JB: If we could afford to buy them and...
	LH: Yeah.
	JB: ...we did. We always had cranberry sauce for Christmas.
	LH: Well then, what was Joyce doing then?
	JB: He was farming. Uh, that was uh, at taht time he was farming.
	LH: Uh huh.
260	JB: And we had uh, stock. Wel had sheep, hogs, and cows and uh, of course we had our chickens.
	LH: Uh huh, well so, then you had plenty of food.
	JB: We had plenty of food, yeah, we was never desperate for food.

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

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LH: Uh huh, so, your Christmas dinner, did it change very much?

JB: Uh, not very much. We, if we could afford sugar we had all this other stuff.

LH: I guess sugar was expensive?

JB: Well, it wasn't expensive, it was just that money was scarce.

LH: Yeah.

JB: But I never remember us being without sugar.

LH: Well, how did...I'm going to change the subject a little bit. How did...did you all have any special way of dressing for Christmas day? Did you have any special clothes that you wore?

JB: Not uh, not at home or not when we visited relatives.

LH: So there wasn't...

JB: There wasn't any dress up, no.

LH: Yeah, well, tell me did you all go to church?

JB: On Christmas, if it fell on Christmas we would but if it wasn't Christmas Day we wouldn't. Back then, they only had services on Christ...on Sundays.

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LH: Really, well what, when you did go...like the other day you were talking about uh, going to church when you were little Uh, you know, on a Sunday that fell around Christmas. What denomination was that church? Do you remember?

JB: Uh, Big Muddy Baptist, Big Muddy Missionary Baptist at Dunbar, Kentucky. And it was just real close. As close from here to the Museum to our house. Right across the street.

LH: Oh, so it wouldn't, you didn't have to get in the wagon or anything.

JB: No, we didn't have to go in the wagon, no.

LH: Well that was good. Well, did you the, what church did you go to then after you moved to Richardsville?

JB: We went to the uh, the Methodist church at Richardsville.

LH: And you would go on the Sunday that fell around Christmas?

JB: Yes, if it fell on Christmas time.

FA5.F2

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

11

LH: Well, what kind, did you all sing songs? Between like twenty-eight and thirty. Around in there.

JB: Christmas songs, songs at Christmas? Yeah, and we had we had radio. We had radio then.

LH: Yeah, I guess, yeah that was the...so did everybody, how did you...how did you all sing?

JB: Well, uh, the only music we would have had would have been on the radio.

LH: Uh huh, you didn't have an organ?

JB: I didn't have an organ. My husband had a guitar, but we didn't know how to play much.

LH: So, did everybody stand around the radio and sing or...

JB: Some, some.

LH: There wasn't any special time?

JB: No special, no.

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LH: Okay, let's see. So, you've always opened presents then on Christmas morning?

JB: Uh, we open, open our gifts ...wrapped presents Christmas Eve. After dinner Christmas Eve and the children had Santa Claus Christmas morning.

LH: Oh, okay, uh, well when did you start wrapping? Do you remember when you started wrapping?

JB: Oh, we probably started wrapping, uh well, I'm sure we did by thirty-four or five. [1934 or 1935]

LH: What did you wrap with?

JB: Well, we had gift paper. Mostly white tissue paper, we called it. Not fancy paper at all.

LH: Uh huh, so, and what kind of, did you buy ribbons and bows and stuff?

JB: No, we didn't have ribbons and bows. We had, I'll tell you what, I guess, we had you remember the colored crape paper.

LH: Uh huh.

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JB: We would make our ah, flowers and things for our boxes out of those.

LH: Well, that was pretty.

JB: You could buy that crape paper in any color you wanted,

FA 5, F2

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green and white, red and we'd get those three basic colors and we would make our trimmings out of that.

LH: Well, when did you wrap gifts?

JB: Before Christmas, whenever we got them.

LH: You wrapped them soon as you got them.

JB: Yea . And we didn't usually start our shopping until first of December.

LH: Until after Thanksgiving?

JB: Uh huh. When we lived on the farm, probably after we sold our tobacco.

LH: So that's how, is that how you got your money for Christ--mas?

JB: Uh, basically.

LH: So when was Christmas really over them?

JB: Uh, we would uh, we would, until after New Year's Day. We usually had a New Year's Day dinner at some of their houses. Someone's house.

LH: So you'd take everything...

JB: Just which ever, you know just like somebody had their Christmas dinner and they all went to that one. Then New Year's, one or the other of the family would have their dinner.

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LH: So that was still considered part of Christmas?

JB: Yeah. Yeah that has, that was the ending of Christmas.

LH: Yeah, it's so close together it doesn't make sense to stop it at Christmas does it.

JB: No, no.

LH: I thought of a question and I was going to ask you yesterday, uh, when you were having Christmas dinner, I know a lot of times the kids and the parents or the kids and the adults sat at different tables. Did you all do that?

JB: Uh, the adults were usually put at the dinning room table and the smaller children were put in at the kitchen table. And we fed them first.

LH: So the kids ate first.

JB: The kids ate first.

FAS, F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION	13
	LH: And there was a dining room and a kitchen?	
	JB: Yes.	
	LH: So the adults ate in the dining room and the kids... I wonder cause I...	
	JB: That's one thing I think I've always had is a dining room.	
	LH: Uh huh. Well, tell me did, about your most, well let's see, your most memorable Christmas during the depression. Was there one?	
337	JB: Uh. I doubt it. [laughing] I can't think of one that would be uh, very exciting.	
	LH: Was that a hard time for you all at Christmas. Was it depressing?	
	JB: Yes. Uh, we didn't have much money to spend for Christ- mas. Nobody did. But uh, we did manage to get the children gifts. You know, presents.	
	LH: Uh huh.	
	JB: And if there was other gifts, well we made them. I made the gifts for the others, if there were other gifts. And I don't think people thought very much about not having a wrap- ped gift during the depression.	
	LH: I guess, yeah, and I guess gifts were smaller then, huh, cause...	
	JB: Uh, I just guess there wasn't very many.	
	LH: Uh huh. What were, what did you basically buy for your kids during the depression?	
	JB: Uh, clothes. Something useful.	
	LH: Uh huh. Was that, did they have stockings?	
	JB: Yes, uh huh, they wore stockings, long stockings.	
	LH: Uh huh. Well did they have stockings then to hang up? Did they...	
342	JB: Yeah, they still wanted to hang their stockings. But uh, back, maybe not right at that time did we have the regular Christmas stockings.	
	LH: Uh huh.	
	JB: I don't guess we did.	
	LH: So they just used...	

FA5 . F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION	14
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JB: They just used their stockings.

LH: What kinds of things, during the depression, did you put in the stockings?

JB: Oh you, at that time if you had the money, you could get a lot of little things, you know, to put in stockings. Just little novelties.

LH: Uh huh. Fruit, was fruit...

JB: Well, we still had fruit. We always had fruit. We always, I...

LH: I guess even what little you did buy for Christmas was expensive...

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JB: Well see, uh, oranges, now we had uh, we had our own apples. But now, oranges and bananas and nuts and coconuts, we always had a coconut for each child. A fresh coconut.

LH: Kid they like that?

JB: Oh yeah. I wasn't Christmas, and we got uh, when I was a child and I just carried it over to my children. We got a coconut.

LH: Thats neat. I never heard. We never did get a coconut in our stockings.

JB: Well, you know, that's just difference in families. But that's the only time of the year that we bought fresh coconuts see.

LH: Uh huh. Well, were they hard to come by. I mean were coconuts hard...

JB: Yeah, they uh, they were not, you just couldn't get them anywhere. But they carried them here in Bowling Green and I guess a long time ago that they would ship them in.

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LH: Uh huh. Well did you have a special place that you shopped here in town when you came?

JB: In Bowling Green? Ooh, that's been a long time ago. Uh, not, not for groceries. We didn't use to come to Bowling Green for groceries. We bought our groceries at Richardsville.

LH: So you...

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION	15
376	<p>JB: But, it wasn't like going to the grocery store now. You didn't have fresh meats and things like that. Had it most of the time, unless it was something special like cranberries or something that we couldn't preserve ourselves that we would buy. Like, like, coconuts and oranges, bananas.</p> <p>LH: Well, what was Joyce doing now? What, was he doing anything besides farming?</p> <p>JB: Uh, I can't think just the year but it was soon after thirty-one, maybe thirty-two. Uh, he worked on the dam at Greencastle. The government was building a dam down there and he worked on that.</p> <p>LH: Well was that...</p> <p>JB: Because farming had got just to where, tobacco was not bringing in anything. We had strawberries and they wasn't bringing any thing. One year we quit selling strawberries because they were not even paying for their expenses.</p> <p>LH: Huh. Was it the same way with tobacco?</p> <p>JB: Same way with the tobacco.</p> <p>LH: Tell me the story about the tobacco.</p> <p>JB: We took crop of tobacco off and uh, we didn't have any money at all left over from that year after expenses were paid. So the next year we didn't raise any. And then the next year we raised a crop of tobacco and to sell it we had to pay fifty dollars to get it sold. And that fifty dollars was just like three or four hundred now. And it was three years before we got that money back. We did get it back.</p> <p>LH: But goodness, fifty dollars then was...</p> <p>JB: All of that was, yeah. Took a big hunk out of our tobacco sales.</p>	
393	<p>LH: Yeah, I guess. Yeah, because people then, you couldn't save money then, could you.</p> <p>JB: No you couldn't. Because there wasn't any money. If you had, if you had money to buy your necessities, you were lucky.</p> <p>LH: Uh huh.</p> <p>JB: And we always had money to buy our necessities.. But back then they were having all these government projects, you know, that, oh like WPA and CCC and all those others, but we never did have to have any of that.</p>	

FAO, F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
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LH: So Joyce...

JB: We always made our living.

LH: You guys were pretty lucky then, huh?

JB: We were pretty lucky, but we didn't even think about ah... we just didn't even think about getting help or wanting help.

LH: That's amazing. You know people didn't.

JB: No, no we didn't even think of it.

LH: And now...you knew you had to do it somehow.

JB: We just...and it wasn't...it wouldn't have been any disgrace but if we didn't have to we weren't going to. And we didn't have to.

LH: That's good.

JB: We had a car. It was hard to get money for gas, but we had a car.

LH: So, during the depression, were all of your kids born then?

JB: Ah, well see in twenty-eight [1928] the depression had really started then, but we had just come back from Detroit and we had been working. I had worked up until a few months before the baby was born and we had some money then. Which we didn't realize that times were so hard for other people.

LH: Did you work while you were in Detroit too?

JB: Yes, I worked too. We both worked.

LH: And where did you work?

JB: I worked at Segall's five and ten cent store.

LH: How long did you work there?

JB: Oh, I worked there for a long time...until we... all the time we were up there. I didn't go to work right straight because I didn't know whether I should go to work or not because the way I was raised up, women just wasn't supposed to get out and work, you know. Unless they was school teachers or something like that, but I did, I got a job. And he worked at an automobile factory.

LH: Okay, let's see, I think I'm running out of tape.

JB: And when we came back we had money to pay for a farm. We paid for our farm, but that let us without very little money, but what he could work and make.

409

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COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

LH: You wanna...

END SIDE 1

BEGIN SIDE 2

015

LH: Tell me how you got home for your first Christmas after you and Joyce got married.

JB: When we were in Detroit, why my husband would be laid off for two weeks. And so we would come home. And we were gonna go to my parents and we come to Bowling Green on a train and then we would have to catch the mail boat from Bowling Green to Morgantown and they would meet us at Morgantown.

LH: So, you had to ride a boat.

JB: We had to ride a boat. And it wasn't a steamer. It was just a little engine mail boat.

LH: Were you afraid?

JB: No, no they carried passengers.

LH: Did they?

029

JB: They carried those passengers for oh, I guess five or six years. That was the transportation from Bowling Green to Morgantown and they carried the mail.

LH: Well then how did you get back home? Did you...

JB: The same way. We would come back on the mail boat here and then catch the train.

LH: Okay, well I guess...

JB: And that was before...later...the next time we came we had bought a car.

LH: So long did you live in Detroit.

041

JB: We lived, we went up there in twenty-five and we came back in twenty-eight.

LH: So you weren't there too long, huh?

JB: No. No, we weren't up there, it weemed like a long time but it wasn't too long.

LH: Did you just go up there to work?

JB: Work, yeah to work. Uh huh.

LH: Becouse I guess there wasn't a whole lot to do.

FA5, F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	JB: No, not much of anything. Yeah.
	LH: So, you all had saved enough money to buy your farm?
	JB: We came home and bought a little farm.
	LH: Okay. You lived there and that was in Richardsville?
	JB: That was in Richardsville. Uh huh. And then we sold that farm. We kept that farm a year and we sold it and bought a bigger one.
052	LH: So, okay. Now we were talking about the depression before. Did you say you bought your kids one, like your dad did with you all. Was there one nice gift?
	JB: We uh, when we had our children things were much different than when I was younger but we did get teim one nice gift and other smaller things, you know. But they had one nice gift.
	LH: During the depression, would that have been clothes?
	JB: No. That would be some kind of a toy. Doll or some kind of a toy.
	LH: Well, tell me about uh, you know the picture you showed me of Ronnie a nd his... [pause]
068	JB: During the depression, about the only thing we had to buy in the way of eats was uh, salt and sugar and flour and we bought our salt loose. We'd go buy it by the pound, loose. And also our sugar was loose. We'd buy it by the pound. And our flour was in twenty-four pound bags. It was heavily wrapped, it wasn't in cardboard or anything like that but it was in heavy paper. And that was about the only thing that we had to go to the store and buy.
	LH: So that left you... If that was all you had, that left a little bit of money for...
	JB: Christmas and things, yeah. But now of course, we had to buy our flour. And uh, and our sugar and that is what we used quite a bit of for Christmas. You see, those two things were, we had to have that for Christmas. But we never, we had was never, I never remember us being out of either one. But we did use flour pretty savingly.
090	LH: Uh huh. Now tell me, how long did you live at the second farm that you bought?
	JB: We lived there until about thirty-four.
	LH: Where did you go then?

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
	<p>JB: And uh, my oldest child went to her first school at Richardsville. And she rode the bus. And then we moved to Butler County. And uh, and in about thirty-four, I think it was about thirty-four. And my husband run a coal mines there. And uh, we lived there until forty-four...</p> <p>LH: So when you were in Butler County, where at in Butler County?</p> <p>JB: Uh, Dunbar, Kentucky.</p> <p>LH: You went back to Dunbar?</p> <p>JB: Yeah. I lived aside of my mother and daddy's home. Just right across the road from them, it wasn't a street or highway, it was a road.</p> <p>LH: Uh huh. So, well boy that was, I bet that was.</p> <p>JB: Oh, I enjoyed that, because that was the first time I had really been with Mon and Daddy much since I had married.</p> <p>LH: Uh huh. And they were getting to see all the kids.</p> <p>JB: Uh huh, yeah. So they got to be with the grandchildren.</p> <p>LH: Well, that must have still been, I mean, times were still pretty hard then, wasn't they?</p> <p>JB: Uh, times was better for us, because there was a sale for coal. You know, it was something you had to have during, at any time for heat. So, uh, times was better for us then.</p> <p>LH: Well, how did it change your Christmas?</p> <p>JB: Well, we just had more things. And there was more things, if you had money, that you could buy too.</p> <p>LH: Uh huh.</p> <p>JB: And on up until uh, forty, of course you know, forty-one was when uh, the last part of forty-one was when uh, W orld War II started.</p> <p>LH: Uh huh.</p> <p>JB: And uh, on December the 22nd my third child was born and that was one of our big, big Christmases.</p> <p>LH: So that was, that was while you were still at Dunbar?</p> <p>JB: That was, we were still at Dunbar. And he was borned at Dunbar.</p> <p>LH: Did you tell me yesterday what all your kids' names are?</p>

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FAS, F2

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

JB: Yeah I did.

LH: Okay. I had forgotten if you had told me.

JB: And this one was Rondle Lee.

LH: So, and that was your...

JB: The third, it was the third child.

LH: Yeah, and that was your best Christmas.

JB: That was my best Christmas. Yeah.

LH: Tell me about it.

JB: Well, we had uh, we had a lady staying with us that uh, was about middle ages. And uh, she was really a good cook and we had the best meals you had ever seen and Christmas was just out of this world. Excuse me. I remember she baked a coconut, a fresh coconut cake and she baked it the old-fashioned way with buttermilk and soda. And that was really, really good. And she could cook other things well.

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LH: When did she bake ^{those} ~~that~~ cake?

JB: Uh, she baked them on the day before.

LH: So even then you were doing all the baking the day before?

JB: Uh, well she did all the cooking. She really had a good...

LH: Now who was she?

JB: She was a middle-aged lady. Her name was Webster, last name, Aunt Janie Webster. But she was just a middle-aged woman. We called her Aunt Janie. And she was real good with the kids.

LH: Now, why was she staying with you all?

JB: Uh, well, to do the work. She was doing the housework.

LH: Uh huh.

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JB: And she stayed with us a month. And uh,... [pause] Uh, as you remember, Pearl Harbor was on December the 7th and World War II was declared. But we had a real nice Christmas. My oldest son got a dual-wheeled wagon with side boards. And they got clothes and Betty got a camera and clothes, with other things. The time we had, this time we had Santa Claus come at night.

LH: Remember yesterday you were telling about the Christmas, now this is still while you were at Dunbar, and the Christmas when the special Santa Class came?

FAS, F2

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

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JB: Uh, the funniest Christmas that I remember was the time when we had Santa Claus come before bed time. We decided to have somebody to dress up like Santa Claus and come and bring the children's uh, Santa Claus. So we got a suit and got one of our friends to come up to the back door with his suit on and his bag over his back. And uh, he knocked on the door and my youngest son which was about five years old went to the door and uh, he thought it was just going to thrill us to death, you know, to see him see Santa Claus and he said, "ho, ho, ho, this is Santa Claus," and uh, Billy said, "Come in Hobert." That was the man's name that we had had dress up like Santa Claus. [laughing] And we were really taken back. And uh, we just had to go ahead and let Santa Claus go ahead and give them their things anyway. pause And Santa Claus brought clothes, toys, and all kind of goodies and with uh, all the Christmas things that goes. And for the next three years it was almost impossible to get little toys. Ronnie was almost two before he got any metal toys at all. And then we bought him a second-handed little car. Uh, this was really during the uh...wasn't the depression but it was almost as bad, it was World War II. Metal was real scarce and you couldn't buy metal toys.

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LH: So Ronny got uh...

JB: Second-handed, a little car that he peddled.

LH: I bet he loved it didn't he?

JB: Oh yes, he was...he really did like that. pause

End of Side 2

FAS.FR